

Brewers and Others Have no Ground to Claim Damages.

A very important decision, and one likely to be far-reaching in its consequences, was rendered in the U. S. Supreme Court on Tuesday last, in the so-called Kansas prohibition cases of Mugler against the state of Kansas, and the state of Kansas vs. Zebold and others. The judgment of the court was pronounced in a long and elaborate opinion by Justice Harlan, of which we extract the following from which it will be seen the court in very plain language, strongly condemns the great evils of the accursed traffic:

THE RIGHT TO PROHIBIT.

It is difficult to perceive any ground for judicially declaring that prohibition by Kansas of the manufacture or sale within her limits of intoxicating liquors for general use there as a beverage is not fairly adapted to the end of protecting the community against the evils which confessedly result from the excessive use of ardent spirits. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that public health, morals and public safety may be endangered by general use of intoxicating drinks. Nor can we ignore the fact that disorder, intemperance and crime, when prevalent in a country, are, in large measure, directly traceable to this evil.

If, therefore, the state deems absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale within the state of intoxicating liquors to be necessary to the peace and security of society, courts cannot override the will of the people as thus expressed by their chosen representatives. It is a fundamental principle in our institutions, indispensable to the preservation of public liberty, that one of the separate departments of government shall not usurp the powers committed by the constitution to other departments.

PROPERTY NOT TAKEN.

In reply to the claim that prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor deprives liquor dealers of their property without due process of law, the court says: All property under our form of government is subject to the obligation that it shall not be used so as to injure the rights of the community and thereby become a nuisance. The state of Kansas had a right to prohibit the liquor traffic. It did not then by taking away the property of brewers. It simply abated a nuisance. The property is not taken away from its owners. They are only prohibited from using it for a special purpose which the legislature declared to be injurious to the community.

PROHIBITION CONFERENCE.

Speedy and Thorough Organization Recommended.

The Prohibition Conference met in Nonparade Hall, Portland, on Tuesday evening November 23, and was called to order by G. W. Dimick, Chairman of the State Prohibition Central Committee.

Song—"The Coming Ship of State."

Prayer.—By Rev. Geo. Rook. Song—"Ome More River to Cross."

The Chairman congratulated his fellow-workers on the remarkable growth of the party. Three years ago he was one of thirteen who started the prohibition party in a committee room in this city. It was a small but lively baby when born at the first convention. In Salem there was but three delegates—not enough to nominate presidential electors—and an adjournment was made till the close of the Grand Lodge I. O. G. T. at Corvallis. These electors received less than 500 votes at the late election; our candidate for Congress received nearly 3,000. For three years we have had a State paper.

Letters regretting their absence, but promising hearty cooperation were received from C. C. Hogue, Corvallis; C. A. Schloeder, Oakland; Dr. A. C. Kianey, Astoria; E. E. McKinney, Turner; Frank McFarland, Arlington. An extract from a letter from A. W. Linn, of Mouthout was read as follows:

"I am exceedingly sorry I can not be at Portland this week, but will say after trying republicanism for thirty years, and feeling very proud of many of its acts, and now when it is called upon to aid in one of the greatest necessities of the century, it shows its eleven feet, although it has all along claimed, and with fair good reason, to be a party of reform, progress and general advancement. I am ashamed of its record made in Oregon, especially in our enlightened cities, while our benighted bunchgrass neighbors have acquitted themselves so nobly. I am now ready to aid in a bill for local option or any other fair means to drive the curse of curses from our fair land."

The following appointments were made to fill vacancies on State Central Committee:

For Baker, Wm. Papoon; Clatskanie, F. O. McCown; Columbia, Jas. Mule; Curry, A. M. Gillispie; Coos, W. A. Luce; Grant, John Long; Jackson, Dr. Geo. Kahler; Linn, Hon. T. P. Goodman; Morrow, N. A. Thompson; Multnomah, C. W. Brown; Union, W. Ruchart; Wasilla, W. Wright; Washington, Gus. Fanno. Committee on political action, Prof. T. F. Campbell, Prof. G. M. Miller, Rev. J. W. Webb, Mrs. Riggs and Mrs. Hoxter, who reported the following:

First. We recommend a speedy and thorough organization in every county, town and precinct.

Second. That we recommend that an able lecturer and competent organizer be put into the field without unnecessary delay.

Third. To make a success of State work, a good, strong, prohibition and general newspaper, with sufficient

moral and financial support, is absolutely necessary.

Fourth. That a concise and emphatic address to the voters of our state, setting forth the spirit, aims and objects of the prohibition party of Oregon be prepared, printed and circulated.

Fifth. That it is the cause of this convention that we should hold a State convention before the June election for the nomination of such officers as are to be elected, and transact any other business. C. W. Brown, Portland; A. M. Smith, Portland; G. W. Dimick, Halsey; G. H. Stockton, Astoria; Gus. Fanno, Beaverton; Mrs. A. R. Riggs, Portland; Mrs. M. E. Hoxter, Forest Grove, were elected executive committee; I. H. Amos was elected as delegate to the National Conference to meet in Chicago Nov. 30th.

Resolved, that Prof. G. M. Miller be put into the field as lecturer and organizer of clubs.

Committee on enlarging or starting a new prohibition paper, Col. John Adair, S. M. Miller, G. W. Brown recommended a feasible plan, and \$20,000 stock was subscribed.

J. E. Knox, Sec'y

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1887.

Thanksgiving Day was observed in Washington in the usual way. The executive departments were closed, and the clerks had a holiday. Business of all kinds was suspended, and Protestant churches were open for religious services appropriate to the occasion. There were many private home gatherings, and family reunions, and many public dinners for the poor, whose hunger was stayed for one day at least, with turkey and cranberry sauce.

A notable feature of the religious ceremonies of Thanksgiving was the unity among different denominations. Union services were the rule. Congregations did not worship alone, but Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, and Episcopalians met at the churches designated, and were thankful altogether. This they have done to some extent in the past, but union services were never before so general.

And this reminds me of the general Christian Conference which is to be held in this city on the 7th, 8th and 9th of December. It is under the auspices and in response to a call from the Evangelical Alliance of the United States, and the chief object of the convention is to arrange some plan whereby all Protestant ministers may help to propagate the Gospel among the working classes.

About two thousand delegates are expected to attend this conference, among whom will be many eminent brilliant and distinguished divines. A few days ago a meeting of clergymen and laymen was held in New York for the purpose of discussing the work to be done at the coming convention in Washington. Some of them spoke very hopefully of the proposed plan, and urged that great good could be done by discarding sectarianism and presenting the naked truths of the Gospel, but others were doubtful, and foresaw many difficulties.

The President and Mrs. Cleveland ate their Thanksgiving dinner at the White House, in a quiet way, their only guests being the three young ladies, former classmates of Mrs. Cleveland at Wells College, who have been with her for a week or more. They listened to a Thanksgiving sermon in the forenoon at the Fourth Presbyterian church, of which Mr. Kelly is the pastor. The First Presbyterian church, the President's usual place of worship, is one of the most unpretentious church edifices in Washington, and it is attended by a very unpretentious, plain looking congregation. Many of the curiosity seekers with whom the National Capital is always thronged, go to the "President's church," as it is popularly called, expecting to see unusual style and display. Beyond the satisfaction of seeing the President himself and his pretty wife, they are always disappointed, and the popular comment substantially is, that their own village church affords as good, or a better looking congregation than that of the President.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain with the other distinguished members of the great Fisheries Commission, have been in this city for a week, and are holding formal conferences daily in the Diplomatic room of the State Department with Secretary Bayard and his assistant representatives of the United States. Their proceedings are to be kept secret, however, until the conclusion of their work. Mr. Bayard himself having authorized the statement that any article that might appear purporting to tell what had been done at any of the meetings of the negotiators, must be the purest speculation.

The President gives every spare moment from routine duties to the preparation of his message. The Capital interior is a busy scene of preparation for our lawmakers. The opening of the first and long session of the Fifty-sixth Congress, is only a week off, and its members, Senators and Representatives, are arriving on every incoming train.

Carl Pretzel's Philosophy.

Lif once mit yourself like der peaceful oyster. Make oben your mouth when you did want to satil something, und oxcleim it, when you haf consulted yourself.

You will been a trinket on society, ofer you done mit tellers vat you like pooty vell dot dhey was done on you, ebery leedle while, also.

Der man dot vas foerst to blant der cabbage hed to make der sour kraut come, shoed got a toomb shitone so high like a sheebok, und mine mudder voed dook der breimium.

Ofer you got some good rebutations, geeb id leekt out. Id vas yoost like some ombretra, when you lose him you neder dand got it pooty gwiek back.

It vas a bully firtue to been so shtrung like an oxen, but when firtue get mixed mit der butter up, I got to dink about dot. Dot vas a pad oxample to sav a much olt mau gommele to been firtuous enuff.

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